

# WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, West Dean & Lydney Rural District Councils)

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT,

M.B., B.S.(Lond)., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

For the Year

1947

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# West Gloucestershire United District

(EAST DEAN, WEST DEAN AND LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCILS)

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## ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year 1947.

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ST. BRIAVELS,  
GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural Districts  
forming the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

I commenced duty as Medical Officer on the 11th August taking over from the Acting Medical Officers, Dr. Sumption in East Dean, and Dr. Carson in Lydney.

In the case of West Dean the post had remained vacant since the death of Dr. E. W. Battle in March.

I am grateful to Drs. Sumption and Carson for the help they gave me and wish to pay tribute to the memory of the late Dr. E. W. Battle who gave so many years of faithful service as family doctor to the people of a large part of West Dean.

In order to bring this report within the prescribed limits I have found it necessary to shorten the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors and to incorporate them in my report.

I am grateful to these officers for the help they have given to me since my appointment. I have also to thank the three surveyors for the help that they have given me in compiling this report.

There are a few points I should like to draw your attention to. There were no maternal deaths throughout the three districts. The 37 deaths under a year to the 954 live births in the year compared favourably with the National infant mortality rate of 41 per 1,000 live births.

This rate is accepted as a sensitive index of the standard of living of the people.



The housing conditions throughout the district remains very bad, the new houses completed by the end of the year do not, as yet, and taking the district as a whole, meet the excess of births over deaths. The extensive programme now being undertaken does promise considerable relief.

The weather during the year was exceptional. The first three months were very cold especially February which was the coldest since 1895. The melting of the very heavy snow during March caused the highest Wye floods since 1795. A number of houses were flooded at Lydbrook, at Redbrook and at Brockweir.

By remarkable contrast this was followed by the driest autumn on record. There was a period of absolute drought of 38 days.

This caused considerable strain on the water supplies for the rest of the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. HUNT.

Medical Officer of Health.

## Public Health Staff.

### MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

*Acting.*—Part time until whole-time appointment was made.

EAST DEAN.      DR. H. H. SUMPTION, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Resigned 11th August.

LYDNEY.          DR. C. O. CARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Resigned 11th August.

WEST DEAN.      DR. E. W. BATTLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Died March 1947.

*Whole time.*—From 11th August, 1947, and for whole district.

A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND)., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

### SANITARY INSPECTORS.

EAST DEAN.      Senior Sanitary Inspector :  
A. W. COLLINSON, M.S.I.A.  
  
Additional Sanitary Inspector :  
GEORGE COLLINSON, M.S.I.A., D.P.A., M.R.S.I.

WEST DEAN.      Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :  
V. G. HUDSON, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.  
  
Additional Sanitary Inspector :  
W. LOCKHEAD, M.S.I.A.

LYDNEY.          Sanitary Inspector :  
W. M. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A.

ANALYST employed by all three authorities :

ROWLAND H. ELLIS, Gloucester.

MILK SAMPLES are sent to the Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Gloucester.

## EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT.

Area—30,475 acres.

Population, 20,310 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses, 5,410 (according to rate books).

Rateable value (1st April), £53,379.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £210 13s. 5d.

### Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Total		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	199	204	403	12	8	20	211	212	423
Still Births	7	5	12	1	—	1	8	5	13
Deaths under 1 yr.	10	1	11	1	1	2	11	2	13

Deaths : 142 male ; 120 female ; total 262.

Excess of births over deaths : 161.

Birth rate = 20.8 live births per 1,000. England and Wales 20.5.

Death rate = 12.9 per 1,000. England and Wales 12.0

These rates approximate very closely to those of the country as a whole.

The death rate has remained constant over the last 40 years.

The birth rate is the highest it has been since 1944 when it was 21.2 per 1,000 and the highest since 1926. These rates do not however reach the rate of 31.3 of 1920.

### Chief Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	13	6	19
Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	2	2	4
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	—	—	—
Influenza ... ..	—	4	4
Cancer ... ..	13	13	26
Diabetes ... ..	1	3	4
Intercranial vascular lesions ... ..	9	16	25
Heart diseases ... ..	35	35	70
Other diseases of the circulatory system	6	3	9
Bronchitis ... ..	14	9	23
Pneumonia ... ..	2	3	5
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	7	—	7
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	3	—	3
Appendicitis ... ..	—	—	—
Other digestive disorders ... ..	1	2	3
Nephritis ... ..	4	8	12
Maternal causes ... ..	—	—	—
Premature births... ..	2	1	3
Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases ... ..	5	1	6
Suicide ... ..	3	—	3
Road traffic accidents ... ..	2	—	2
Other violent causes ... ..	4	3	7
All other causes ... ..	15	11	26
All causes ... ..	142	120	262

Infectious Diseases Notified.

				Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Cerebrospinal Fever	Infantile Paralysis
Males	...	...	...	20	—	94	9	5	1	6
Females	...	...	...	9	—	99	9	3	—	1
Total	...	...	...	29	—	193	18	8	1	7
AGE GROUPS	0 +	...	...	—	—	11	1	—	—	—
	1 +	...	...	3	—	32	3	—	—	1
	3 +	...	...	4	—	54	5	—	—	—
	5 +	...	...	16	—	84	7	2	—	1
	10 +	...	...	5	—	11	1	—	1	—
	15 +	...	...	1	—	1	—	2	—	3
	25 +	...	...	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
	45 +	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	65 +	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
January	...	...	...	7	—	1	2	5	—	.
February	...	...	...	4	—	—	9	—	—	—
March	...	...	...	7	—	—	4	—	1	—
April	...	...	...	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
May	...	...	...	1	—	68	—	1	—	—
June	...	...	...	—	—	84	—	—	—	—
July	...	...	...	2	—	25	—	—	—	—
August	...	...	...	3	—	10	1	—	—	5
September	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
November	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
December	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
Cinderford	...	...	...	7	—	72	—	—	—	2
Drybrook	...	...	...	10	—	71	—	—	—	—
Mitcheldean	...	...	...	1	—	15	11	1	—	—
Longhope	...	...	...	4	—	1	2	3	—	—
Huntley	...	...	...	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
Churcham	...	...	...	3	—	1	2	—	—	—
Littledean	...	...	...	2	—	8	—	—	—	—
Blaisdon	...	...	...	1	—	3	—	—	—	4
Awre	...	...	...	—	—	5	—	2	1	—
Ruardean	...	...	...	—	—	16	2	—	—	—
Popes Hill	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Removed to Hospital				26	—	—	—	—	—	7



**Ice-Cream Producers.**

Three samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to bacteriological analysis and two were reported on as unsatisfactory and one as satisfactory.

There were six inspections of premises.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The County Council made arrangements for immunisations at clinics and at schools.

**Relation to Child Population.**

	Under 5	5—14	Total
Number immunised during the year ... ..	189	47	236
Total number immunised by the end of the year	729	2372	3101
Estimated mid-year population ... ..	1840	3200	5040
Percentage immunised ... ..	39.6%	74%	61%

Number of reinforcing injections given during year 60.

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year.

**Tuberculosis.**

DEATH RATE. This has averaged 0.77 per 1,000 living over the last six years. This is higher than the County rate of 0.565 or the National rate of 0.657.

There is little difference between different parts of the district except that the 22 deaths in the last six years in the parishes of Ruardean and Drybrook together suggest a higher rate of 1.1 per 1,000 here.

The rate of the district was 1.4 in the years 1915-18 but fell soon after the first war to 0.5 (1922-27) but thereafter has been at its present rate.

**Notifications of Tuberculosis during year.**

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary ... ..	16	11	27
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	4	—	4
Totals ... ..	20	11	31

**Infantile Paralysis.**

Four of the seven cases notified were not confirmed, three of these were probable cases without paralysis.



# SUMMARY OF HOUSING SURVEY.

	No. of houses inspected	Categories					% in Category 5	No. of houses over-crowded
		1	2	3	4	5		
Awre ...	234	47	99	75	4	9	0.38	4
Blaisdon...	82	45	19	12	2	4	5	—
Churcham	171	124	27	8	—	12	7	—
Huntley	105	47	22	14	9	13	12.4	2
Littledean	191	14	49	64	36	28	14.7	12
Longhope	288	132	84	43	8	21	7.3	1
Mitcheldean	206	54	42	84	4	22	10.7	4
Ruardean	260	99	90	47	4	20	7.7	4
Blakeney Hill	215	69	85	40	8	13	6	7
Cinderford	1711	393	314	791	21	192	11.2	38
Drybrook	775	146	207	321	19	82	10.6	29
Plump Hill	236	41	70	73	23	29	12.3	7
Popes Hill	139	8	34	57	19	21	15.1	6
Ruspidge	403	57	114	173	22	37	9.2	11
Totals ...	5016	1276	1256	1802	179	503	10	125

Categories :—1. Satisfactory in all respects.

2. Minor defects.

3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.

4. Appropriate for re-conditioning

5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

**New Council Houses.**

The following were completed during the year :  
6 Swedish Houses (4 at the Pludds and 2 at Mitcheldean).  
3 Traditional houses at Littledean.  
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. 2 houses.

**Water Supply.**

East Dean Parish Waterworks at Greenbottom is the largest water undertaking in the district. Water is obtained from an adit and from two deep wells at Greenbottom and is pumped to reservoirs on Littledean and Ruardean Hills.

This supply serves most of the East Dean Parish with Ruardean, Littledean and part of Mitcheldean.

Owing to the exceptionally dry weather it was found necessary to curtail the supply from the 13th October until the end of the year and in some parts of the district it was only possible to give three or four hours supply daily.

The quantity of water pumped during the year was 141,105,000 gallons or 22.5 gallons per head per day of population served.

**Number of Properties supplied from this source.**

				Number properties connected	Served by Standpipe	Population served
Township of East Dean	...			3,467	28	13,940
Mitcheldean	...	...	...	34	—	136
Littledean	...	...	...	184	1	740
Ruardean	...	...	...	218	—	872
Awre	...	...	...	6	—	20
				3,909	29	15,708

Joys Green Ward of the parish of Lydbrook in the West Dean District is supplied from this source by meter.

Analysis : Two samples were taken from the mains and sent for analysis during November and were reported on as satisfactory.

The water, is of course, chlorinated.

Mitcheldean Water Company supplies part of Mitcheldean mostly through standpipes. The source is a spring which feeds a reservoir from which the water gravitates without pumping. Samples taken from supply taps and from the springs were unsatisfactory and representations were made to the Water Company to increase chlorination. The water is presumed to come from limestone.

Blakeney Village. This is supplied by public and private wells. A bacteriological analysis of the water from the public well in August was unsatisfactory. This well was liable to serious contamination from drainage. The Council are taking steps to provide standpipes connected to the East Dean supply as quickly as possible. A notice warning people to boil the water was put on the well.

Awre supplied by wells. Three samples taken were unsatisfactory and users warned to boil the water.

Longhope dependent solely on wells.

Blaisdon. Seventeen houses are supplied by a local spring supply which is piped into these houses. Another six houses depend on a standpipe from this supply. Otherwise this parish is dependent on wells.

Churcham and Huntley are dependent on private wells which are liable to dry up. These parishes are in the Gloucester area of supply.

The District Council now supplies 74 per cent. of the houses in their area of supply with mains water and intend to supply all reasonable parts of the district as soon as sufficient water is available.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

Cinderford with Ruspidge and part of Drybrook are served by the Soudley sewage works. Littledean and Mitcheldean each have a small sewage works.

11 connections to the sewer were made during the year.

13 premises made improvements to sanitary accommodation with drainage to tanks and filter beds.

8 improvements in the provision of W.C.'s and baths.

**Public Cleansing.**

The Council collect refuse weekly from the greater part of the East Dean Township. Isolated parts of Drybrook and Ruspidge wards and Blakeney Hill ward are served by contractors.

Ruardean, Littledean and Blakeney are served weekly by contractors.

Contractors also serve Awre village and Mitcheldean village fortnightly and the outskirts of Mitcheldean fortnightly.

**Sanitary Inspection.**

Under the Public Health Act	...	...	372
Other complaints	...	...	68
Preliminary notices served	...	...	50
Statutory Notices served	...	...	2



### **Cowsheds and Dairies.**

No. of inspections, 78. Eight improvements to shed and dairies have been made.

### **Factory and Workshop.**

No. of inspections, 36.

### **Meat Inspection.**

451 visits were made to the Slaughter House and the following number of animals were killed :—

Cattle, 1,147 ; Calves, 987 ; Sheep, 5,068 ; Pigs, 14.

The following amount of meat and offal was condemned :—

11 Bovine carcasses	...	...	...	6,476 lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	1,248 lbs.
3 Calves	...	...	...	253 lbs.
4 Sheep	...	...	...	139 lbs.
87 Bovine heads	...	...	...	2,852 lbs.
140 Lungs	...	...	...	1,429 lbs.
315 Livers	...	...	...	4,430 lbs.
306 Part Livers	...	...	...	1,793 lbs.
734 Sheep Livers	...	...	...	1,850 lbs.

### **Other Foods.**

Fish	...	...	...	...	636 lbs.
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	224 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	104 lbs.
406 tins of various foods, etc.					

## WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT.

Area : 24,154 acres.

Population : 18,020 (Registrar General's estimate).

Number of inhabited houses according to rate books : 5,025.

Rateable value : £46,430. Sum represented by a penny rate :  
£169 8s. 11d.

### Vital Statistics.

#### Births and Infantile Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	177	144	321	8	11	19	185	155	340
Still Births	4	5	9	—	—	—	4	5	9
Deaths under 1 yr.	11	7	18	—	1	1	11	8	19

Deaths : Males 132 ; Females 88 ; Total. 220.

Excess of births over deaths = 120.

Birth rate = 18.9 per 1,000. That for England and Wales = 20.5.

Death rate = 12.2 per 1,000. That for England and Wales = 12.0.

The birth rate is higher than last year but falls a little short of the rate for the country. The highest recorded rate for the district is 20.1 in 1944.

#### Causes of Death. West Dean Rural District 1947.

Classified according to the Registrar General's short list of causes.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	7	3	10
Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	1	1	2
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	—	—	—
Influenza ... ..	3	—	3
Cancer ... ..	17	17	34
Diabetes ... ..	1	2	3
Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	10	3	13
Heart diseases ... ..	33	35	68
Other diseases of the circulatory system	7	2	9
Bronchitis ... ..	11	6	17
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	4	—	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
Diarrhoea ... ..	1	1	2
Appendicitis ... ..	1	—	1
Other digestive causes ... ..	2	3	5
Nephritis ... ..	4	3	7
Maternal causes ... ..	—	—	—
Premature births ... ..	1	5	6
Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases ... ..	7	1	8
Suicide ... ..	2	—	2
Road Traffic accidents ... ..	2	1	3
Other violent causes ... ..	2	—	2
All other causes ... ..	5	4	9
All causes ... ..	132	88	220

# Infectious Diseases Notified.

			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Cerebrospinal Fever	Infantile Paralysis	Erysipelas
Males			3	1	35	6	12	—	2	1
Females	...	...	1	—	37	3	8	—	—	1
Total	...	...	4	1	72	9	20	—	2	2
AGE GROUPS	0 +		—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
	1 +		—	—	13	—	2	—	—	—
	3 +		1	—	14	4	1	—	—	—
	5 +		3	—	40	3	4	—	1	—
	10 +		—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
	15 +		—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—
	25 +		—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1
	45 +		—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1
	65 +		—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
January	...	...	—	—	—	1	7	—	—	—
February	...	...	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
March	...	...	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
April	...	...	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—
May	...	...	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
June	...	...	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
July	...	...	—	1	35	—	—	—	—	—
August	...	...	1	—	20	3	3	—	2	1
September	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
October	...	...	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—
November	...	...	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—
December	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Coleford	...	...	1	—	6	4	1	—	1	—
Berry Hill	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Milkwall and Broadwell	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Yorkley and Pillowell	...	...	—	1	12	2	1	—	—	—
Parkend	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bream	...	...	—	—	2	1	4	—	—	—
Lydbrook	...	...	1	—	35	—	8	—	1	—
Clearwell	...	...	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Redbrook	...	...	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Eng. Bicknor	...	...	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—
Staunton	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ellwood	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Removed to Hospital	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Died	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—



Diphtheria Immunisation.

Arrangements are made by the County Council for Immunisations to be done at Clinics and at schools. In addition to this I started a clinic especially for this purpose in October to be held on the first Friday in each month.

Relation to Child Population.

	Under 5	5—14	Total
Number immunised during year ...	147	—	147
Total number immunised by the end of the year ... ..	552	2539	3091
Estimated mid-year population ...	1530	2740	4270
Percentage immunised ... ..	36%	93%	72%

Number of reinforcing immunisations done during year, 116.  
There was one notification of diphtheria in a child previously immunised.

Tuberculosis.

It was noticed in January that the number of cases on the tuberculosis register had increased and especially so for the parish of Lydbrook. Consequent upon this representations were made to the County Medical Officer of Health and the Mass Radiography Unit visited Lydbrook in September. A large number of the employees of the Cable-works, of the Arthur and Edward, and of the Cannop collieries and a large number of the public of Lydbrook were examined. Altogether 1,340 were examined and 12 cases of active tuberculosis were discovered. A number of inactive cases were discovered and of these 7 were notified.

Notifications and Deaths in West Dean.

Year	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Notifications	27	24	15	23	30(11)
Deaths	17	15	15	20	12

The figures in brackets show what the position would have been had there been no Mass Radiography.

	Estimated population	Deaths in last 5 years	Notifications 1947	Last 5 years
Coleford ... ..	2971	9	—	9
Lydbrook ... ..	2534	22	24 (6)	58 (40)
Berry Hill and E. Bicknor	2382	11	—	6
Broadwell, Milkwall and Ellwood ... ..	2855	8	1 (—)	17 (16)
Yorkley, Pillowell and Parkend ... ..	3579	12	2	15
Bream ... ..	2355	9	3	21
Redbrook, Staunton and Clearwell ... ..	1344	3	—	3
Total West Dean ... ..	18020	74	30 (11)	129 (110)

## Housing.

New houses completed during the year :—

Council : 12 traditional houses at Yorkley Slade.  
13 prefabricated bungalows at Bowson Road, Bream.

Private : 5 one each at Newland, Bream, Coleford, Whitecroft and Lydbrook.

Housing Survey. All houses under £16 rateable value were inspected and the survey was completed during the year.

District	No.	CATEGORIES							
		1		2		3		4	5
Coleford	532	164	31%	252	47%	25	5%	—	91 17%
Broadwell	861	284	33%	426	50%	63	7%	—	88 10%
Pillowell	728	172	24%	427	58%	63	9%	—	66 9%
Lydbrook	536	161	30%	280	52%	42	8%	—	53 10%
Bream	667	213	32%	325	49%	69	10%	—	60 9%
Newland	201	60	30%	93	46%	26	13%	—	22 11%
Eng. Bicknor	97	28		42		8		—	19
Staunton	32	10	31%	18	5%	1	3%	—	3 10%
Totals	3654	1092 (30%)		1863 (51%)		297 (8%)		—	402 (11%)

Action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936 to make houses wind and weather proof as follows :—

Intimidation notices ...	71	Statutory notices ...	5
Complied with ...	61	Complied with ...	4

## Water Supply.

The whole of the Rural District is covered by the Council's water undertaking. Seventy per cent. of the dwelling-houses are directly connected to the main supply and another three per cent. are supplied through 10 standpipes in various parts of the district.

The Waterworks are situated at Redbrook and the source of water is a deep well at the works and springs arising between the works and Staunton. The reservoir is situated at Staunton and the water is chlorinated before being pumped there for distribution.

The building development since the war, the extension of the water carriage method of sanitation and industrial development have caused a greater consumption of water.

The drought in August and the first part of September caused the demand to exceed the supply and daily restrictions had to be applied in all parts of the district. It is the intention of the Council to augment the supply by the Lime Kilns Springs at Lydbrook.

Bacteriological analysis were made regularly of the water from the well and springs and from the reservoir and different parts of the distribution system and were satisfactory even before chlorination.

The water is hard and not plumbosolvent but the use of lead pipes is very small. Periodical chemical analysis were made.

Water samples were also taken as follows :—

Three samples from a private supply. Two of these were unsatisfactory and Pasteur-chamberlain filters used and the other sample was then satisfactory.

Three samples from the spring supplying Newland Camp occupied by squatters. These were unsatisfactory and the Councils main supply was then made available.

## Drainage and Sanitation.

The present lack of system for the disposal of sewage from the urban parts of the rural district gives rise to considerable nuisance. Especially is this so in Coleford and in those parts overlying coal measures as the coal seams are interleaved with those of clay.

Two successful rat poisoning campaigns were carried out in the culvert used as a sewer in Coleford.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

								Number of Inspections
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	830
Refuse and Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	380
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
Came Sites and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Evacuated and requisitioned property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Other infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Public Health and Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Milk and Diaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Pit shafts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Buildings and Licensing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	747
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,335

## Swimming Pools.

Three water samples were taken during the year. The only satisfactory swimming pool in the district is that at Clearwell.

A sample was taken of cooling ponds connected with a colliery



and was reported on as unsatisfactory. This pond contained pit water and the manager was requested to fence it.

Another unsatisfactory sample was obtained from a disused clay pit and a request was made to the owner to fence it.

### **Ice-Cream.**

Number of producers of ice-cream lincensed (Hot mix 5 and cold mix 8), 13.

Number of retailers of ice-cream made by large wholesalers, 3.

Sixteen samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological analysis. Reports : Satisfactory, 1 ; fair, 4 ; poor, 2 ; bad, 9.

All producers were subject to regular inspection.

One license was revoked as the premises failed to comply with Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

A small amount of tinned and other foods were condemned and fed to pigs and poultry.

There is no slaughter house in the district.

A sample of mineral water produced in the district was found to contain 0.54 parts per million of lead. This was traced to defective tin lining of " block tin " lead pipe used to convey aerated water at the factory, and this piping has been replaced by Pyrex glass piping and fittings.

### **Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

Number of registered producers of milk	...	...	...	58
--	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of Accredited and Tuberculin Tested producers	...	10
--	-----	----

Samples of school milk taken, 62 ; (50 satisfactory and 12 unsatisfactory).

Sample of public milk supply, 1 (which was satisfactory).

Six new cowsheds and dairies were constructed.

### **Refuse Collection.**

Weekly collection from over 90 per cent of houses. Disposed of by semi-controlled tipping mainly in disused quarries. Regular poisoning campaigns kept the number of rats low.

## LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Area : 24,544 acres.

Population : 10,230.

Number of inhabited houses : 2,858 (according to rate books).

Rateable value : £60,857.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £226.

### Births and Infantile Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	102	81	183	6	2	8	108	83	191
Still Births	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4
Deaths under 1 Yr.	4	1	5	—	—	—	4	1	5

Deaths during year : Male 70, Female 57 = 127.

Excess of births over deaths = 64.

Birth Rate = 18.7 per 1,000.

Death Rate (crude)—12.4.

### Chief Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	6	7
Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	1	—	1
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
Cancer ... ..	8	10	18
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	6	11	17
Heart diseases ... ..	20	13	33
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	—	4
Bronchitis... ..	4	—	4
Pneumonia ... ..	3	2	5
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	3	—	3
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum ...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under two years ... ..	1	—	1
Appendicitis ... ..	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases ... ..	2	1	3
Nephritis ... ..	3	1	4
Maternal causes ... ..	—	—	—
Premature births ... ..	—	1	1
Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases ... ..	2	—	2
Suicide ... ..	—	1	1
Road traffic accidents ... ..	1	—	1
Other violent causes ... ..	3	1	4
All other causes ... ..	7	9	16
All causes ... ..	70	57	127

## Infectious Diseases.

### Infantile Paralysis.

During this year the country encounter the worst epidemic of this disease that it has ever known.

Towards the end of the epidemic four cases arose in Lydney within two days of each other. Two cases arose previous to these making six altogether. All were definite cases.

### Tuberculosis.

Death Rate: The 25 deaths over the last five years give a Death Rate of 0.5 per 1,000 living. This compares favourably with the County rate of 0.565 and the National Rate of 0.657.

There is no indication of any difference in any part of the district. It is interesting to note that the rate rose to 1.1 after the First World War but fell until it reached 0.28 in the years 1935-39.

**Notifications of Tuberculosis.** The following were received during the year.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary ... ..	4	3	7
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	1	—	1
Totals ... ..	5	3	8

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The District Council continue their scheme for the payment of general practitioners for immunisations.

The assistant school medical officers and myself did a number of immunisations at the schools.

### Immunisation related to Child Population.

	Under 5	5—14	Total
Number immunised during year ...	105	3	108
Number immunised at any time ...	266	435	701
Estimated mid-year population ...	870	1670	2540
Percentage immunised ... ..	30.5%	26%	27.5%

These figures are based on the records available. Many children must have been immunised privately and so no records are available for them.

### Typhoid Fever.

One case of this disease was notified and admitted to hospital. The disease developed five days after the patient entered the district and so must been infected elsewhere. A carrier of this disease with whom the patient had been in contact was traced and was presumed to be the source of infection.



Infectious Diseases Notified.

			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Cerebro- spinal Fever	Infantile Paralysis	Typhoid Fever
Males	...	...	4	4	3	2	1	—	4	—
Females		...	3	—	8	1	—	1	2	1
Total	...	...	7	4	11	3	1	1	6	1
AGE GROUP	0 +		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 +		—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
	3 +		—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
	5 +		3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
	10 +		2	4	3	—	1	—	—	—
	15 +		2	—	3	—	—	—	3	—
	25 +		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	45 +		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	65 +		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
January	...		—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
February	...		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
March	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
April	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	...	...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
June	...	...	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
July	...	...	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
August	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Spetember	...		1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
October	...		—	—	3	1	—	—	4	—
November	...		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	...		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lydney	...		—	—	2	3	—	—	4	1
Alburton	...		—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Alvington	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Woolaston	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Briavels	...		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewelsfield	...		1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tidenham	...		3	4	5	—	—	1	1	—
Beachley Camp			2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Removed to Hospital	...		2	4	—	—	—	1	6	1
Deaths	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Rural Housing Survey.

This was not completed during the year.

New Houses.

Council :                   2 Traditional parlour type at Woolaston.  
Private enterprise : 3 Houses at Tutshill.  
                                  4 Bungalows.

**Cowsheds and Dairies.**

Improvements were carried out to four cowsheds and five dairies.

39 milk samples were taken from non-designated premises.

**School Milk.**

Of the 31 samples submitted for analysis by the County Council 27 were satisfactory and four unsatisfactory.

**Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-46.**

	Issued during year	Total on Register
“ Tuberculin-Tested ” licences ... ..	—	24
“ Accredited ” milk licences ... ..	1	15

These licences are issued by the County Council.

**Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943.  
Treatment of Built up areas.**

- 16 Business premises.
- 31 Free Service treatments of private dwelling housed under the scheme which ended on the 31st December, 1947.
- 40 Treatments of private dwellings on the payment of a nominal fee.

**Sewer Treatments** were carried out twice and showed slight infestation.

**Scavenging.**

- Lydney weekly.
- Aylburton, mostly weekly ; Upper Common and Upper Hill monthly.
- Tidenham. A small scheme is run by the Parish Council. A scheme has been prepared for extension.

**Water Supply.**

Lydney is supplied from an adit at Ferneyley. The water is pumped to a reservoir at a high level in Aylburton parish from which it gravitates to Lydney.

This supply is augmented by a supply from a level known as Tufts level. Both these sources are chlorinated before entering the mains.

Aylburton. Some houses are supplied from the Lydney supply and Aylburton Common is supplied from a well "Hollywell."

This supply is insufficient in quantity and a bacteriological analysis showed it to be unsatisfactory.

Alvington. A number of houses are supplied by the Lydney supply.

Woolaston. A spring connected to a reservoir serves a number of houses.

Tidenham. This parish is in the Chepstow Water Company's area of supply. The lower and more southernly part is supplied by this company's mains. The higher and more scattered part is dependent on wells and rain water. During August the wells became dry and a 500 gallon tank was filled daily by haulage. This was so placed as to be convenient for distribution and was continued for seven weeks at a cost of £70.

St. Briavels. The Barrow Well springs arise at nearly the highest point in this village and are collected by small reservoirs and piped to two standpipes. Several small private tanks take the overflow from these reservoirs and supply a number of private houses. Even so an overflow runs to waste even in summer. The water is a good one.

Outside the village the scattered cottages and small holdings are dependent on wells and springs.

Water Samples taken in different parts of the district, 9.

### **Sewerage.**

Most of the houses in Lydney are connected to the sewer which discharges untreated into the River Severn.

A number of houses in the Tidenham parish connect to a sewer which discharges crude into the River Wye.

Otherwise sewage disposal throughout the district is by conservancy methods.

### **Swimming Pools.**

There are two in the district.

Beachley Swimming Pool. Privately owned.

Four samples of the water in this pool, one taken at each end on two separate occasions were all reported on as satisfactory.

Bathurst Swimming Bath.

Four samples of the water, one taken at each end on two separate occasions were all reported on as not satisfactory.

In view of the epidemic of infantile paralysis that was raging the baths were closed in August.



## Ice Cream.

Twelve samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological analysis during the year.

Four of these taken at the beginning of September were reported on as very unsatisfactory and the producers were asked to stop producing.

Subsequently the producer who produced two of these samples obtained a satisfactory report. The other two producers had reports "not entirely satisfactory."

Another producer obtained a satisfactory report.

Three samples made by a large wholesaler were all satisfactory.

## Meat Regulations.

The following number of animals were slaughtered and the carcasses inspected for disease :—

Ministry of Food Slaughter-house, Church Road, Lydney, Glos.

Cattle, 449 ; Calves, 5 ; Sheep and Lambs, 3,202 ; Pigs, 22.

Total : 3,678.

Number of Pigs slaughtered on Unlicensed Premises were : 551.

Note :—The Lydney Food Executive Officer issued 535 licences to self-suppliers.

## The amount of meat condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption was :—

### CATTLE.

10	Carcases of Beef affected with Tuberculosis and Emaciation	4,153 lbs.
1	Bruised Forequarter of Beef ... ..	165 lbs.
2	Bruised Hindquarters of Beef ... ..	225 lbs.
	Bruised Beef ... ..	174 lbs.
28	Ox Heads affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	846 lbs.
181	Ox Livers affected with T.B., Fluke and Cysts. ... ..	2,351 lbs.
45	Sets of Ox Lungs affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	440 lbs.
	Beef offal affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	480 lbs.
Total ... ..		8,834 lbs.

### SHEEP.

9	Emaciated and Dropsical Carcases of Lamb ... ..	275 lbs.
2	Forequarters of Bruised Mutton ... ..	40 lbs.
561	Sheep Livers affected with Fluke and Echinococcus ... ..	966 lbs.
8	Sheep Plucks affected with Strongylosis ... ..	54 lbs.
Total ... ..		1,335 lbs.

## PIGS.

1 Carcase of Pork affected with Multiple Abscesses	...	...	110 lbs.
3 Pigs' Plucks affected with Pneumonia	...	...	9 lbs.
Total	...	...	119 lbs.

Total amount of meat condemned during the year was :— 10,288 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption were :—

1,339 Tins of various foodstuffs.

2½ lbs. of Butter ; 50 lbs. of Cheese ; 71½ lbs. of Bacon ; 70 doz. Eggs ; 73 lbs. of Slab-Cake ; 420 lbs. of Parkin's Biscuits ; 130 lbs. of Cake ; 75 lbs of Prunes ; ½ cwt. of loose Beans ; 37 lbs. of Bananas ; 12 lbs. of Tomatoes ; 64 Pork Pies ; 6 lbs. of Brawn ; 30 lbs. of Rabbits.

## Fish.

28 lbs. of Bloaters ; 3 stone of Cod's Roe ; 12 stone of Herrings ; 5 stone of cured Haddock ; 3 stone of Kippers ; 5 doz. Fish-Cakes.

## Petroleum Acts.

Number of licences granted by the Council under the Petroleum Acts, for the storage of Petroleum Spirit were : 27.

## General.

### Complaints received.

Nuisances reported to District Council	...	...	...	...	...	45
(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	45
(b) Swine	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of preliminary notices served	...	...	...	...	...	45
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions obtained	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nuisances unabated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of earth closets or privy vaults abolished for W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of earth closets or privy vaults abolished for pail privies	...	...	...	...	...	7

Number inspected of each of the following :—

Premises or Occupations subject to Statutory Control :—

### Under the Shops Act, 1934.

(a) Butchers Shops, 10 ; (b) Grocers Shops, 38 ; (c) Other Trades, 37.

Number of visits and inspections, 117.

	Number on Register	Number Inspected	Total number of Inspections
Slaughterhouses	10	1	201
Dairies ; Cowsheds and Milkshops	126	93	162
Bakehouses	14	12	27
Factories	18	18	39
Workshops	34	34	51

## LYDNEY SHIPPING, 1946.

### Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the Year, 1947.

#### Coastwise.

	Number	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number Inspected by San. Insp.
Steamers	58	4202	—	—	5
“Motors”	334	20052	—	—	9
Sailing	272	13588	—	—	7
Fishing	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise	664	37842	—	—	21

“ Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.”





